

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /118 W

----- 009006

R 230946 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 753

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0569

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SO

SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN SOMALI TENSIONS

1. BEFORE LEAVING MOGADISCIO FOR CONSULTATIONS WASHINGTON, AMBASSADOR HAD LONG TALK APRIL 21 WITH DR. MOHAMED ADEN SHEIKH, NEW SOMALI SECRETARY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION AND CONSIDERED PRESIDENT SIAD'S " BRAINTRUST." ADEN MADE STRONG PITCH FOR US HELP IN SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN DISPUTE.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HE CONVINCED ALL THIS NERVOUSNESS AND SABER RATTLING BY BOTH SIDES WAS FOR THE BIRDS. NEITHER SIDE HAD SLIGHTEST INTENTION OF ATTACKING THE OTHER. ONLY IF ETHIOPIA SHOWED SERIOUS SIGNS OF DISINTEGRATION ON EMPEROR'S DEATH MIGHT SOMALIA BE TEMPTED MAKE GRAB FOR OGADEN, WHICH WOULD HAVE IMMEDIATE EFFECT OF UNIFYING ETHIOPIANS. IN ANY CASE, AMBASSADOR WANTED TO BURY ONCE AND FOR ALL THE SOMALI NOTION THAT US HAD BEEN EGGING ETHIOPIANS ON. OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS MAINTENANCE OF PEACE IN HORN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TWO IMPOVERISHED PEOPLES WHO WERE DEVOTING DISPROPORTIONATE AMOUNTS OF SCANT RESOURCES TO SECURITY.

3. ADEN ADMITTED THAT THINGS SEEMED TO BE CALMING DOWN AND TOOK NOTE OF AMBASSADOR' S ASSURANCES. NEVERTHELESS, SOMALIS

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WERE STILL MUCH CONCERNED ABOUT JUST WHAT ETHIOPIANS WERE UP TO. SOMETIME AG, ADEN SAID, A SUBSTANTIVE AND HOPEFUL DIALOGUE HAD BEEN INITIATED WITH ETHIOPIA (PRESUMABLY WITH EMPEROR). SINCE THEN DIALOGUE HAD STOPPED, AND INSTEAD ETHIOPIA HAD MADE PROVOCATIVE MILITARY MOVES TOWARD SOMALI FRONITER. ADEN CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT SOMALIS FAVORED EVENTUAL DIS-MEMBERMENT OF ETHIOPIA OR THAT SOMALIA WOULD ATTACK ETHIOPIA IN SUCH SITUATION. "WE DON' T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH FUEL FOR AN OPERATION OF MORE THAN TEN DAYS."

4. RE US INTERVENTION UPON WHICH SOMALIS COUNTED STRONGLY, ADEN ADMITTED SENSITIVITY OF ISSUE AND THUS LIMITS OF US ACTION. HOWEVER, IF US REALLY WANTED PEACE IN HORN, IT COULD, WITHOUT GETTING INVOLVED IN MERITS OF QUESTION, EMPHASIZE TO ETHIOPIANS ITS INTEREST IN MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND ITS HOPE THAT EHTIOPIA WOULD TRY TO RESOLVE ITS PROBLEMS WITH SOMALIA.

5. QUESTIONED RE TYPE OF SOLUTION SOMALIS HAD IN MIND, ADEN ANSWERED THERE WERE MANY POSSIBILITIES RANGING FROM TERRITORIAL SWAY TO AGREEMENT ON SPECIAL STATUS OF REGION CONCERNED. "THE TWO PEOPLES ARE VERY CLOSE -- EVENTUAL FEDERATION IS INEVITABLE. WE MUST START LEARNING TO LIVE TOGETHER."

6. AMBASSADOR URGED THAT SIAD ATTEND OAU SUMMIT IN ORDER RENEW DIALOGUE WITH EMPEROR.

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